

## THE MONTANIAN

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Superior Clipping Service

Glendive MT 406-377-6612

# The EPA's Coming

By Jean Sonju

"This is the coordinator  
 "From the EPA  
 "I'd like to bring a crew  
 "To check your house today."

"We'll go up in the attic  
 "Then look at the backyard  
 "It won't take us very long  
 "And it shouldn't be too hard."

"We've poked and we've prodded  
 "I guess we're all through  
 "In a week and a half  
 "I'll get back to you."

I waited and waited  
 With never a word  
 Only two months and passed  
 When I finally heard.

"I'll be there on Monday  
 "At two on the dot."  
 It's now almost three  
 Do you think she forgot?

"I got mixed up on the time  
 "Weren't you scheduled for three?  
 "I was up at your neighbor's  
 "While you waited for me."

"I'll answer your questions  
 "Explain procedures, too  
 "So you'll understand exactly  
 "What we have to do."

"You'll be at a nice motel  
 "For a time as you may know  
 "The Venture Inn or Sandman  
 "Is where you'll have to go."

Oh, no, I don't think so!  
 You won't get your way!  
 The Evergreen Motel  
 Is where I'm going to stay.

I'll have my own recliner  
 And a small kitchenette  
 I'm really sure the Evergreen  
 Is the best that I can get.

"It's the Venture or the Sandman  
 "That's what our contract states  
 "It won't cost you a thing  
 "We pay the going rates."

"The room will be comfy  
 "Your dog can stay there, too  
 "There'll be a fridge and a micro-  
 wave  
 "Won't that work for you?"

I'm not backing down  
 And I won't give in  
 This is one battle  
 You're not going to win!

I've moved to the Evergreen  
 And this is where I'll stay  
 'Til the EPA is done  
 And finally gone away.

Though I've won this battle  
 It was just round one  
 My troubles and frustrations  
 Have really just begun.

I try to get some answers  
 And money for a meal  
 But the EPA people  
 Want to make it a big deal.

"Get receipts, sign these papers  
 "We'll get them all sent in.  
 "You will get your money  
 "But we don't know just when."

I keep making phone calls  
 I try every day  
 It seems like 'real people'  
 Are always away.

"I'm out of the office  
 "I can't come to the phone  
 "Please leave a message  
 "When you hear the tone."

Machines don't answer questions  
 They can't give me a date  
 When can I move home?  
 Guess I'll just have to wait.

Someone new answered  
 When I called in today.  
 "I'm working this week  
 "While the coordinator is away."

"I'm coming right over  
 "And we'll work things out."  
 Hooray! It's about time!  
 I wanted to shout.

I signed all the papers  
 And they were sent in  
 Do you suppose, maybe  
 I'm going to win?

I'm moving back home  
 After two weeks away  
 There's no more vermiculite  
 And no more EPA

I just saw vermiculite  
 In my laundry room  
 And a hole in the ceiling  
 My joy turned to gloom.

I'll call the coordinator  
 They have to make this right  
 If they don't come and fix it  
 I'll put up a fight.

The house at last looks great  
 They came and did their thing  
 I'm so glad that it's all done  
 I could do the Highland Fling.

Now my attic looks like new  
 My house and yard are both okay  
 Was it worth all the hassle?  
 Here's what I have to say.

The EPA will come to your house  
 And I know what they'll do  
 I just hope that all my troubles  
 Won't be coming with them, too.

(Jean Sonju lives in Libby.)